UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/NGO/8
5 August 1993

Original: ENGLISH, FRENCH
AND SPANISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 7

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Written statement submitted by the Inter-Parlianentary Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category I)

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is distributed in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[5 August 1993]

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT AS OF 30 JUNE 1993

1. In the context of its programme to promote women in development and their participation to political life, the Inter-Parliamentary Union [1] compiles statistics on the distribution of seats between men and women in national Parliaments on a regular basis.

2. Information concerning the number and percentage of men and women members of the 170 national Parliaments in existence as of 30 June 1993 is thus available, by country and by chamber of Parliament.

3. The world breakdown is as follows:

SINGLE OR LOWER CHAMBERS		
Total parliamentarians	34,119	
Data available on	31,568	
Women	**3,268**	**10.35%**
Men	28,300	89.65%
OTHER CHAMBERS		
Total parliamentarians	5.436	
Data available on	4,138	
Women	**354**	**8.55%**
Men	3.784	91.45%

[1] In July 1993, 124 parliaments were represented in the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which also had three international parliamentary assemblies as associate members: the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Andean Parliament and the Latin American Parliament.

TOTAL PARLIAMENTARY POPULATION		
Total parliamentarians	39,555	
Data available on	35,706	
Women	**3,622**	**10.14%**
Men	32,084	89.86%

4. As of 30 June 1989, women accounted for nearly 13 per cent of the members of national Parliaments (single chambers and lower chambers). The figures presented here reveal **a drop in the proportion of women in Parliament**. This decline is particularly marked in countries which have gone from a single-party (legal or virtual) to a multi-party system and from an electoral system providing a mechanism for the representation of the various groups of the population (comparable to a quota) to a system of free competition between parties with no special mechanism for the representation of the various population groups.

5. **As of June 1993, a single country had virtually reached parity in terms of representation of men and women in Parliament: SEYCHELLES**, whose monocameral Parliament has 24 members, 13 of whom are men and 11 women (45.8%).

6. **The ten countries with the highest percentage of women parliamentarians are as follows:**

Seychelles	45.8%
Finland	39.0%
Norway	35.8%
Sweden	33.5%
Denmark	33.0%
Netherlands	29.3% and 25.3%
Iceland	23.8%
Cuba	22.8%
Austria	21.3% and 20.6%
China	21.0%